

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the request further contains information defining at least one coding unit that the client does not want to receive.

C \ 30. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the request contains information concerning a region of less interest of the image that the client does not want to receive.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the region of less interest is defined by a mask in the transform domain.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2002. Claims 1-14 have been canceled. New claims 15-31 have been added. Thus, claims 15-31 are now pending.

New claim 15 defines over Percival for at least the following reasons.

New claim 15 requires "compressing, via entropy coding, at least a first block and at least a second block into different independently decodable coding units, respectively; after said compressing, storing at least one of the first and second coding units on the server; receiving a request at said server; and responsive to the request, transmitting from the server to at least one client the coding unit(s) corresponding to the request so that upon receiving the request the coding units(s) corresponding to the request are transmitted to the at least one client without the server having to employ further entropy

encoding with respect thereto." Percival fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid aspects of claim 15.

In contrast to Percival, the invention of claim 15 calls for grouping transform coefficients into separate sets (blocks) and further compressing such sets using entropy coding to form the claimed independently decodable coding units. As a result, according to the invention of claim 15 images can be stored using much less memory/disk space on the server than in Percival.

Moreover, in certain embodiments, when a request for a region of interest is received from a client(s), coding unit(s) containing compressed coefficients related to the region are sent to the client(s) without having to perform any further encoding of the same. In other words, the data sent to the client(s) in response to the request is already compressed so that the server does not need to further compress the coefficients prior to sending. For an image server serving mega-pixel images to many users at the same time, this significantly reduces the amount of work/processing needed to be performed.

All claims are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

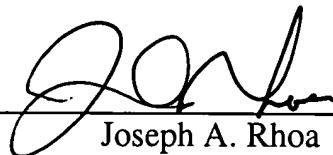
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Respectfully submitted,

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